

Application No. 10/782,487
Amendment "A" dated March 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 25, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A two-part orthodontic bracket, comprising:
a base;
at least one slot associated with the base configured to receive an arch wire;
a holding device pivotally connected to the base in a manner so that the holding device is movable about a pivot axis between an open position and a closed position relative to the base and slot, and so that the holding device is tiltable relative to the base about at least one axis other than the pivot axis; ~~and~~
a latch for selectively latching and unlatching the holding device and base; and
a guide system that reduces tiltability of the holding device as the holding device is moved toward the closed position, and wherein the guide system causes a reduction in the tiltability of the holding device independently of latching the holding device to the base.
2. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1, further comprising a connection device that pivotally connects the holding device to the base.
3. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 2, wherein the connection device comprises at least a portion of the guide system.

Claims 4 – 5 (Cancelled).

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6. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1, wherein the base and the holding device are only latchable in a precisely fixed spatial relationship to one another due to the guide system.
7. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1 wherein the holding device comprises a cover having a rounded outer surface.
8. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1, wherein the holding device is tiltable about at least one tilt angle in a range of about 0.5° to about 10° when in the open position.
9. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 8, wherein the holding device is tiltable about at least one tilt angle in a range of about 1° to about 8° when in the open position.
10. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 8, wherein the at least one tilt axis extends substantially horizontally when the base is arranged horizontally.
11. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 8, wherein the at least one tilt axis extends substantially vertically when the base is arranged horizontally.
12. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1, wherein the holding device is movable about three axes perpendicular to one another when in the open position.
13. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1, wherein the guide system comprises a movable bearing for the at least partly open holding device.

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14. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 2, wherein the connection device comprises at least one spigot which is received in a corresponding link guide.

15. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 2, wherein the connection device comprises at least one spigot which is received in a corresponding link guide, with the curvature of a first peripheral section of the link guide corresponding to the curvature of the spigot and the curvature of a second peripheral section of the link guide being greater than that of the first peripheral section.

16. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 2, wherein the connection device comprises two spigots which are each received in a corresponding link guide, with at least one link guide not surrounding the associated spigot along its entire periphery.

17. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 2, wherein the connection device comprises at least one spigot which is received in a corresponding link guide which has a passage opening for a connection web between the holding device and the spigot.

18. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 17, wherein the connection device forms a snap connection that holds the holding device to the base.

19. (Original) The two-part orthodontic bracket of claim 1, wherein the bracket comprises at least one of a metal, ceramic or rigid plastic.

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20. (Original) A two-part orthodontic bracket, comprising:
- a base;
 - at least one slot associated with the base configured to receive an arch wire;
 - a holding device pivotally connected to the base in a manner so that the holding device is movable about a pivot axis between an open position and a closed position relative to the base and slot, and so that the holding device is tiltable relative to the base about at least one axis other than the pivot axis; and
 - a connection device that pivotally connects the holding device to the base and that comprises a guide system that reduces tiltability of the holding device as the holding device is moved toward the closed position.
21. (Original) A two-part orthodontic bracket, comprising:
- a base;
 - at least one slot associated with the base configured to receive an arch wire;
 - a holding device pivotally connected to the base in a manner so that the holding device is moveable about a pivot axis between an open position and a closed position relative to the base and slot, so that the holding device is tiltable relative to the base about at least one axis other than the pivot axis; and
 - a connection device that pivotally connects the holding device to the base, the connection device comprising:
 - at least one spigot attached to an end of the holding device by a connection wire; and
 - at least one link guide attached to the base into which a portion of a corresponding spigot is received.

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22. (New) A two-part orthodontic bracket, comprising:

a base;

at least one slot associated with the base configured to receive an arch wire;

a holding device pivotally connected to the base in a manner so that the holding device is movable about a pivot axis between an open position and a closed position relative to the base and slot, and so that the holding device is tiltable relative to the base about at least one axis other than the pivot axis;

a connection device that pivotally connects the holding device to the base, and wherein the connection device comprises at least a portion of the guide system; and

a guide system that reduces tiltability of the holding device as the holding device is moved toward the closed position.

23. (New) A two-part orthodontic bracket, comprising:

a base;

at least one slot associated with the base configured to receive an arch wire;

a holding device pivotally connected to the base in a manner so that the holding device is movable about a pivot axis between an open position and a closed position relative to the base and slot, and so that the holding device is tiltable relative to the base about at least one axis other than the pivot axis; and

a guide system that reduces tiltability of the holding device as the holding device is moved toward the closed position, and wherein the guide system comprises a movable bearing for the at least partly open holding device.